Diſtreſſed CHILD,

OR,

The Cruel Uncle:

BEING

A True and Diſmal Relation of one Eſq; *Solmes* of *Beverly* in *Yorkſhire*; who dying, left an only Infant Daughter, of the Age of two Years, to the care of his own Brother; who with many Oaths, Vows, and Proteſtations, promiſed to be loving to her; but her Father was no ſooner Dead, but out of a wicked Covetouſneſs of the Child's Eſtate of three hundred Pounds a Year, carry'd it into a Wood, and there put it in a Hallow-Tree to Starve it to Death: Where a Gentleman and his Man being a Hunting two Days after, found it half Famiſhed, having gnawed its own Flesh and Fingers ends in a dreadful manner.

With an Account how the Cruel Uncle to hide his Villany, had cauſed the *Child's Effigies* to be buried in Wax, and made a great Funeral, as if it had been really Dead: With the manner of the whole diſcovery by a Dream, and taking the Wax-Child out of the Grave.

With the Uncle's Apprehenſion, Examination, and Confeſſion before Juſtice *Scubbs*, and his Commitment to Goal, in order to be Try'd the next Aſſizes, for that barbarous Action.

Note, *This Relation will be atteſted at the* Three-Nuns, *and* Rummer-*Tavern without* Aldgate: *As alſo at the* Three-Cups *in* Alderſgate-*ſtreet*, by the *Huttington*-Carriers, *&c.*

Licens'd and Entred according to Order.

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BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

The Inhumane Brother, &c.

The Love of Money *is the Root of all* Evil; *and is the Cauſe of the moſt barbarous Vices, as may be ſeen by this following Example.*

IN the Town of *Beverly* in *Yorkſhire*, about two Months ago, there lived one Squire *Solmes*, a very Honeſt Gentleman of about Three Hundred *per Ann.* His Wife dying, by whom he had one little Daughter about two Years of Age, he continued ſome Months a ſorrowful Widower, he cou'd not well enjoy himſelf after the Loſs of his Dear Spouſe: And it ſo happened, that partly out of Grief, partly from a violent Fever, he was brought to his Bed of Sickneſs, where he continued not long, for he died within a Fortnight after he was taken by

by that Fever. He expreſſed a great concern for little Girl; and therefore call'd his Brother, a Gentleman that lived about 14 Miles from him, and begged him to take care of his Daughter upon him. *Brother*, ſaid he, *I leave with you the Deareſt Thing that I have in the World, my little Daughter, and with her to you I intruſt my Eſtate; manage it for her Uſe, and take care of her Education in Vertue and Religion; uſe her as if ſhe were your own, and for my Sake ſee her married to an Honeſt Country Geutleman.*

All which was faithfully promis'd by the Brother: Thus when all things were ſettled, the Gentleman dies, and the Brother takes Home the Child to his Houſe, and for ſome time us'd her kindly. But at the laſt the *D---l* of *Covetouſneſs* poſſeſs'd him; nothing run in his Mind ſo much as making away with the Child, and ſo poſſeſs the Eſtate. After many ways, he at laſt concluded to take her with him, and hide her in a hollow Tree: Which

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one Morning he effected, and left the poor Infant with her Mouth ſtopp'd that ſhe might not cry. For he had ſo much Grace, not actually to Murder her, therefore he left her alive in the hollow of the Tree; and the better to hide the Matter, gave out that the Child was Dead; and therefore caus'd an Effigie of Wax to be made, laid it in a Coffin, and a Shrowd, and made a great Funeral for the Child. Thus the Effigie was buried, and no notice at all taken of the Matter. At the ſame time, a Neighbouring Gentleman Dream'd, That that Day he ſhou'd ſee ſomething that wou'd ſufficiently aſtoniſht him: He told it to his Lady, who diſſwaded him from going a Hunting that Day; but he was reſolved, not giving any credit to Dreams, and ſo takes Horſe in the Morning: As he was a Hunting, he happen'd to be in the Wood where the Child was. And as he was Riding by the Tree, his Horſe gave a great ſtart, ſo that he had lik'd to have fallen down; and turning about to ſee what was the matter,

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he ſaw ſome thing ſtir in a hole; and being inquiſitive to know the Cauſe, his Dream preſently came in his Head. And therefore he calls his Man, and bids him examine what was in the hole: Who having ſearch'd the Tree, diſcovers the Child in the Tree. He took it out, and his Maſter carried it to his Lady almoſt Dead; he told her his Dream was out, declaring how he found the Child, and begg'd her to take Care of it. The Child was reviv'd, and in a little time brought to its ſelf again; but they could not imagine whoſe it was; till at laſt it happen'd that ſome Women came to the Gentleman's Houſe a Singing at *Chriſtmas*; and ſeeing the Child, knew it, and declar'd whoſe it was, and that it was ſuppos'd to be dead and buried. The Gentleman goes and prevails with the Miniſter of the Pariſh to have the Grave opened, and found the Waxen-Effigie of the Child in the Grave. He went to the Juſtice of the Peace. to whom he declared the matter; who ſent his Warrant for the Child's Truſtee: Who being convicted of

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the matter, was not able to deny it, but confeſs'd all the buſineſs. But ſeeing the Child was alive, 'tis ſuppos'd he will not be tried for his Life; but 'tis thought a ſevere Puniſhment will be inflicted on him; and the Juſtice appointed the Gentleman that found the Child, to be its Truſtee, till the *Aſſizes*. The Child is now at the Gentleman's *H*ouſe, who loves it as if it was his own; for he has no Children himſelf, and is a Man of a good Eſtate, and is likely to augment very much the Child's Fortune.

POSTSCRIPT.

WE have this further Account from *Huttington* concerning the Child aforeſaid, That when the Gentleman and his Man found it in the hollow Tree, it was almoſt quite Dead, it having been put there by the Inhumane Uncle two Days before, ſo that the poor innocent Creature for meer Hunger, had in a lamentable manner ſuck'd and knaw'd its own Fingers ends till the Blood ran about its Cheeks and Mouth to ſuch a degree, that when it was brought to the Gentleman's Lady, ſhe fell in a *S*woon at the ſight of it.

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The manner of the whole Discovery of the Uncle's Wickedness, was thus: He having some time before got the Child's Effigies exactly made in Wax, as abovesaid, gave out the Child was Dead; and thereupon bought Mourning, and buried the said Counterfeit Corps in a Stately and Sumptuous manner: And he being a Rich Man none in the least had any Suspicion of his being Guilty of so barbarous a Wickedness, as to make away with his Brother's Child: So that had not Divine Providence, in almost a Miraculous manner preserv'd the Child's Life, it would have been impossible by humane Endeavours to have detected him of the Crime. However, after he thought himself past danger, a Woman that had often seen the said Child at his House, happened after to came by the Gentleman's Door some days after it was found, and seeing it in the Maid's Arms, (the Gentleman being by) says she, *That Child is as like Squire* Solmes's *little Daughter as one Apple is like another*; and further added, *that if* (quoth she) *I had not seen his Child buried some days ago, I should have positively sworn it had been the same Child*: Upon which the Gentleman called her into his House, and told her the whole Story, how and where he found it almost starv'd to Death, in a hollow Oaken-Tree as he was a Hunting; so that getting Knowledge of the Woman where Mr. *Solmes* Liv'd, he was first of all Apprehended and kept in Custody till the Grave was opened, at which time the Wax Child was taken out, to the Uncle's great Shame and Confusion; and the more, when the Gentleman told him how he found the living Child in the hollow Tree as he was Hunting: Upon which he confess'd the whole

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matter to the *Juſtice*, and wrung his H-
mented after a ſad and diſmal man-
guilty of ſuch a monſtrous B
Fleſh and Blood.

FINIS.

Advertiſement.

THe beſt and moſt Experienced Remedy for Sore *or* Weak Eyes, *that ever yet was made known to the World, being of that wonderful Efficacy, that it infallibly diſpels any* Humour *or* Salt Rheum *diſtilling from the Head; and takes away all Soreneſs, or Redneſs: or Swelling: It alſo ſtrengthens* weak Eyes *(ſometimes occaſion'd by the* Small-Pox*) and will diſperſe any* Films *or* Cataract *growing over the* Eye, *whereby the Sight oftentimes becomes dim; in a few times uſing this Excellent Remedy, to thoſe that will be perſwaded to uſe it often, it will preſerve the* Sight *to an incredible Age, and read the ſmalleſt of Prints. It being a Secret acquired by a Gentleman in his long Study, whereby he has wrought wonderful* Cures *among his Relations and Acquaintance; and now made publick for the Benefit of all People that will make tryal of it.*

For thoſe that are really Poor *they ſhall have it for Nothing; to Others for* 6 d. *the* Bottle.

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